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MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
January 27, 1998

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, January 27, 1998, at 200 South Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas. Board members present: Dewayne Naumann, Rocky Medrano, Vice Chair, Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Elaine Carter, Secretary, Jeff Francell, Carol Kim, Mary K. Isaacs.

Staff members present: Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Stuart Strong, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Bernadette Phifer, Lyn Kinton, Mark Lord, David Capuchino.

Rosemary Castleberry presented a plaque which read "The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department extends its appreciation for the outstanding contributions of Phil Friday for his commitment to the quality of life in Austin through service on the Parks and Recreation Board July 1993 - August 1997." Mr. Friday thanked the board for this recognition.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 13, 1998, were approved.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Ann S. Graham, Co-President of the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association approached the board to request funding in the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) Bond Election for a new fire alarm/security system at the Elisabet Ney Museum.

Shirlene Justice, Area Coordinator for Community Education at Jordan Elementary School approached the board to request CIP Bond Election funding for lights and field game equipment at Jordan Elementary School.

Andres Wright, third grade teacher at Jordan Elementary, approached the board to request lights and field equipment for Barbara Jordan Elementary School through the CIP Bond Election.

Ted Siff, Texas Field Office Director for the Trust for Public Land, approached the board to request CIP funds for greenways and land acquisitions, particularly in the Colorado River Park area.

Paula Fracasso, Executive Director with the Austin Parks Foundation, 2112 Rio Grande, approached the board to request that funding for the Colorado River Park be kept a priority.

Will Shepherd, 4000 Bennedict, associated with the Friends of the Farm, approached the board and asked that funding for Pioneer Farm be included in CIP Bond Election funds.

Don Rivera, Chair Person with Parque Zaragoza Recreation Center, approached the

board and requested CIP funding for a game room to be added to the recreation center as was originally proposed.

Regina R. Nash, parent at Barbara Jordan Elementary School, approached the board and asked for CIP funding for lights on the school grounds.

Rosemary Castleberry read into the minutes a letter from the Friends of the Carver Museum: "The subject of this letter will be short and very direct. The Friends of the Carver Museum request your support and commitment to the upcoming bond consideration for a Carver expansion. It is our understanding that the current Carver proposal for the bond is a request for a 625 square foot structure. This proposal needs to be revisited and redesigned. We need more space! We need more space than 625 square feet. It is our community's vision to see the current space enlarged from the present 1400 sq. feet of usable space (exhibit floor) to an all purpose building area of at least 1800 square feet. A conceptual feasibility study was done in 1985 which included much large areas for galleries of permanent and rotating exhibits, classrooms, studio space, kitchen, theatre and community meeting room. This structure was never seen. We come in 1998 requesting a structure of at least 1800 square feet which would be an all purpose room with kitchen, restroom and storage cabinets. This room would be able to be divided into a classroom and a community meeting area. This space would be used for many different functions. The Friends of the Carver Museum and the entire Austin community, which the Carver serves, is challenged to create a new structure which will at least encompass some of the larger vision proposed. We want to expand what we are currently doing to insure our longevity into the next century and beyond. We, the Friends of the George Washington Carver Museum, request that the members of this group stand with us and our community for the vision of an 1800 square foot expansion possibility. We need everyone's support starting today. Sincerely, Debora Duncan Hurdle, President, Kieth Alexander, Clarence Briscoe, Pamela Lindeman, Janet Patterson, Zenobia Orimoloye, Theresa Hardeman, Margaret McCracken, Dr. Marvin Kimbrough, Doug Sivad, Alice L. Lane, Sylvia Owens, O. B. Conley, Melinda Murphy, Dr. Jane Runnels."

#### D. PUBLIC HEARING

##### Receive Public Input on the Use of Butler Fields

Patti Patton, President of Austin Girls Fast Pitch Association, approached the board and informed them that girls fastpitch is the fastest growing sport and she is in favor of shared use of Butler Fields. She was not informed that this would be a public hearing tonight.

Jerry Russell, Executive Vice-President of Austin Girls Fastpitch Association, urged the board not to transfer Butler Fields.

At the request of the following people, (Nita Kirksey, David Lopez, Earl Dolifka, Steve Simons, Hannah Jeanes, and Ed Collins) their time was given to Eileen Walsh and Stephen Kreger so that a short presentation could be given. Several questions concerning Butler Fields were presented to the board: "Is there a process in place to allow public discussion about a transfer of field use?" "Why were advisory boards and/or the general public, not included in a decision that affects programs and corresponding budgets?" "Is there a written contract between PARD the the Austin Girls Fastpitch Association (AGFA)?" "If



not, why?" "If so, when was it completed and what are its terms?" "When were the Butler Fields used by the AGFA?" "Were these fields transferred for just league play, predominately league play or league and practice?" "If the latter is the case, what is the percentage of practice to league play?" "What was the fiscal impact on the Athletic Enterprise Fund (AEF) by the transfer of Butler Fields?" "How many teams were lost by not having access to the Butler Fields?" "What savings has the AEF realized?" "How will the AEF survive with the mounting financial demands and constraints?" There were several other questions asked. Jesus M. Olivares, Director, assured Ms. Walsh and Mr. Kreger that all their questions would be answered by staff.

The public hearing closed at 7:35 p.m.

#### E. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Michele Rogerson from the Austin Parks Foundation (APF), gave a short presentation on the Adopt-a-Park program, a co-sponsored program between PARD and APF. Ms. Rogerson explained the mission of the Adopt-a-Park program is to build partnerships to enhance parks, programs and facilities and to reward partners. The program strives to promote greater business and community involvement in a cooperative effort with public parks and facilities, to strengthen and enhance the quality of Austin parks, programs and facilities. The purpose of the program is to cut expenses, maximize resources, encourage fundraising, identify a new customer base, promote public participation and alleviate budget constraints. The Adopt-a-Park program will benefit through better parks, programs and facilities to help generate new sources of revenue and to foster more community ownership and pride in the park system.

#### F. ITEMS FOR ACTION

The election of Parks Board Officers was taken out of order and placed as the last item for action.

##### Make a Recommendation to the City Council on a Request to Name the Athletic Fields in Garrison Park, the Ric Castaneda Sports Facility

Mary K. Isaacs informed the board the Land and Facilities Committee did not take action on this item and requested that a public hearing be held at the next Parks Board meeting, preferably to be held at Crockett High School.

##### Approve Construction of Barton Creek Trail Improvements, in Conjunction with Robert E. Lee Road Stabilization and Sidewalk Project

Mary K. Isaacs informed the board the Robert E. Lee Road was constructed on land that has eroded over time. The road has shifted due to its location to Barton Creek. Earlier efforts to repair the road focused on re-paving, but cracks and subsidence continue to require high maintenance. Due to these conditions a sidewalk in the neighborhood has never been built. Funds were transferred to conduct this project. It will take one month to conduct work on parkland. The Land and Facilities Committee recommends approval of this project. Based on the Land and Facilities recommendation it was moved to approve this project. Dewayne Naumann seconded. The vote in favor was 8-0 (Naumann, Isaacs, Carter, Castleberry, Medrano, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres).

Make a Recommendation to the City Council on a Park Improvement and Use Agreement at A. B. Cantu/Pan Am Park

Mary K. Isaacs informed the board there is an existing agreement with PARD and AISD for Zavala Elementary to be expanded. The latest expansion includes construction of a larger parking lot and a detention pond. AISD has requested permission to build part of the parking lot and detention pond on parkland. The parking lot would be available for park users when school is not in session. PARD has worked with AISD to accommodate the school expansion without compromising the park. The portable buildings will be removed after construction. AISD will remove and replace a park swing to a new location. The Land and Facilities Committee recommends approval of this project. Based on the Land and Facilities recommendation it was moved to approve this project. Rocky Medrano seconded. The vote in favor was 8-0 (Naumann, Isaacs, Carter, Castleberry, Medrano, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres).

Consider and Make a Recommendation to the Planning Commission on the 1998 Bond Election

Elaine Carter moved to table this item until the meeting of February 10, 1998. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded. The vote in favor was 8-0 (Naumann, Isaacs, Carter, Castleberry, Medrano, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres).

Election of Parks Board Officers

Rocky Medrano moved that Rosemary Castleberry be re-elected Chair by acclamation. Jeff Francell seconded. The vote in favor was 7-0 (Naumann, Isaacs, Carter, Medrano, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres).

Erma Linda Cruz-Torres moved that Rocky Medrano be re-elected Vice-Chair by acclamation. Dewayne Naumann seconded. The vote in favor was 7-0 (Naumann, Isaacs, Carter, Castleberry, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres).

Mary K. Isaacs moved that Elaine Carter be re-elected Secretary by acclamation. Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded. The vote in favor was 7-0 (Naumann, Isaacs, Castleberry, Francell, Kim, Cruz-Torres, Medrano).

**G. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

TRAPS/TPWD Annual Institute and Trade Show will be March 4-6, 1998, in Corpus Christi, Texas. All are invited.

**H. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Programs Committee will meet 2/23/98 at noon  
Land and Facilities Committee will meet 2/3/98 at noon  
Navigation Committee will meet with Lake Austin Advisory Committee on 1/30/98  
Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Advisory Group was presented a conceptual master plan for property  
Downtown Commission will focus on Waller Creek Tunnel

**I. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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